

Newspaper Clips

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India slips in QS rankings, only exceptions IIT-B, IIT-Delhi

Mumbai, Pune universities go further down the ladder

MIHIKABASU
MUMBAI, JULY 8

MOST Indian institutes and universities have fared poorly in the QS Asian University rankings for 2012, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, and IIT Delhi being the only Indian institutes that have improved their overall rankings over last year. While IIT Bombay is up by four notches (from 38 to 34 in 2012), IIT Delhi is up from 37 to 36 this year.

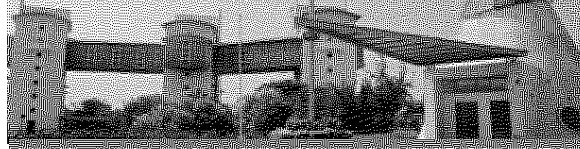
QS is one of the world's leading networks in career and education. Yet again, while no Indian institute has made it to the top 30 in overall rankings, only four have made it to the top 50 among 300 Asian institutes this year.

Last year, five had featured in the top 50. An analysis of rankings from 2009 to 2012 reveals that no Indian institute has made it to top 10 and only one ranked in the top 30 since then (IIT Bombay in 2009).

"It's not that institutes or universities in India are not doing well. These rankings assess several factors and we tend to lose points on many of these indicators, which include international faculty and international students. Further, while the rankings look at various subjects, IITs and our universities will lose points on a specific subject like medicine," said a senior academician.

QS ASIAN UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, 2012

INSTITUTE	2009	2010	2011	2012
IIT Bombay	30	36	38	34
IIT Delhi	36	39	37	36
IIT Guwahati	171	66	82	89
IIT Kanpur	34	37	36	47
IIT Kharagpur	141	57	48	56
IIT Madras	49	53	43	45
IIT Roorkee	63	75	56	65
Mumbai University	130	96	145	151-160
Pune University	100	109	142	191-200
Calcutta University	110	99	115	143
Delhi University	60	67	77	78



This year, all the other five older IITs have slipped in their overall rankings, IIT Kanpur climbing down the most by 11 places from 36 to 47 this year. While IIT Guwahati is down from 82 to 89, IIT Kharagpur is down from 48 to 56. IIT Madras is ranked at 45, down by two places from last year and IIT Roorkee slipped from 56 to 65. Except Delhi University, no other Indian university, including Mumbai, Pune and Calcutta universities feature in the top 100. All the four have slipped in their rankings.

Mumbai University, for instance has gone down the ladder steadily, from 96 in 2010 to 145 in 2011 and 151-160 this year. While Delhi

University is ranked 78, it is down by one point from last year. Like Mumbai, Calcutta University too has come down gradually, from 99 in 2010 and 115 in 2011 to 143 this year. The worst show this year has been put up by Pune University which has been ranked between 191-200 this year.

Besides the overall rankings that covers several parameters like research and teaching, internationalisation, publications etc, QS also ranks the Asian universities by faculty (subjects) and by criterion (like faculty-student ratio).

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has retained the top slot this year in overall ranking,

followed by the National University of Singapore in the second position and the University of Hong Kong in the third position.

An assessment of ranking by faculty for "engineering and technology" shows that six IITs are in the top 50, but all have slipped in their rankings. While IIT Bombay has the best ranking in this criteria at 14 among the other IITs, it is down by two positions over 2011 when it was ranked 12. IIT Roorkee has suffered the maximum loss of nine points, from 41 to 50 this year. Among the rankings by criteria, none of the Indian institutes could bag a slot in the top 200 for "international students" and "international faculty". In "faculty-student" too, no Indian institute figures in the top 100. The Indian institutes have performed comparatively better in "academic reputation" and "employer reputation".

For instance, in employer reputation, IIT Bombay is ranked seventh and IIT Delhi and University of Delhi 16th and 17th respectively. The other institutes in the top 50 are IIT Madras (22), Mumbai University (25), IIT Kanpur (28) and Pune University (48). In academic reputation, IIT Bombay (29), IIT Delhi (37), Delhi University (38) and IIT Madras (49) are among the top 50.

राजधानी में पिछले दस वर्षों में चार गुना से ज्यादा बढ़ गया प्रदूषण, नासा-आईआईटी दिल्ली ने किया संयुक्त अध्ययन

सबसे ज्यादा दम घोट रही दिल्ली

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

देश के सभी महानगरों के मुकाबले दिल्ली की हवा सबसे ज्यादा दम घोटने वाली है। यहां प्रदूषण का स्तर लगातार बढ़ता जा रहा है। मुंबई में आबादी कहीं ज्यादा है, फिर भी वहां देश की राजधानी से काफी कम प्रदूषण है। डब्ल्यूएचओ के मानकों के हिसाब से दिल्ली में पिछले दस वर्षों में प्रदूषण चार गुना से अधिक बढ़ गया है।

अमेरिका की स्पेस एजेंसी नासा और आईआईटी दिल्ली के एक संयुक्त अध्ययन में यह खुलासा हुआ है।

अध्ययन से पता चला है कि थार रेगिस्तान से आने वाली हवा भी दिल्ली की आबो-हवा को प्रदूषित करने का एक बड़ा कारण है।

दिल्ली में पिछले दस वर्षों में 31.1 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति मीटर क्यूबिक प्रदूषण बढ़ा है। डब्ल्यूएचओ के मानकों के मुताबिक, धुंध का यह स्तर दुनिया के किसी भी शहर में प्रदूषण को अधिकतम

बढ़ता प्रदूषण			
शहर	आबादी (मिलियन)	आसत दस वर्षों का	एक दशक में बढ़ा
दिल्ली	16.39	148.4	31.1
मुंबई	17.66	78.8	24.6
कोलकाता	13.55	88.0	23
चेन्नई	6.42	21.3	3.6
बंगलुरु	5.68	14.4	-
लखनऊ	2.42	84.6	23.1
कानपुर	2.84	82.0	33.3
आगरा	1.32	89.0	21.5
मेरठ	1.17	96.4	4.1

स्रोत : (आईआईटी दिल्ली और नासा) प्रदूषण के आंकड़े माइक्रोग्राम प्रति मीटर क्यूबिक में

मिथक तोड़ता अध्ययन

प्रदूषण के स्तर पर मौसम का असर

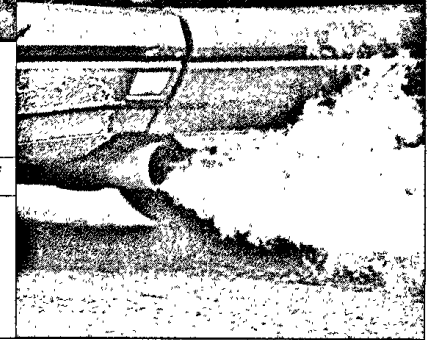
अध्ययन में शामिल वैज्ञानिक लेरी डी गिरोलेमो ने बताया कि बारिश आने से पहले प्रदूषण बढ़ जाता है। इसमें मानव द्वारा प्रदूषण के साथ-साथ धूल कण भी शामिल होते हैं। मानसून में गाड़ियों से होने वाला प्रदूषण सबसे अधिक होता है।

गांव भी अछूते नहीं

अध्ययन में यह तथ्य सामने आया है कि प्रदूषण शहरों में ही नहीं, बल्कि गांवों में भी बढ़ा है। प्लास्टिक कचरा, घरों से निकलने वाला गंदा पानी और खेती में रसायनों का अत्यधिक इस्तेमाल आदि इसका बड़ा कारण है।

स्थानीय कारण ही दोषी नहीं

माना जाता है शहरों में स्थानीय कारणों से ही प्रदूषण बढ़ता है। मगर, ताजा अध्ययन बताता है कि बाहर से आने वाली हवा भी इसका कारण हो सकती है। प्रदूषक तत्व लिए यह हवा जिस क्षेत्र से गुजरती, वहां प्रदूषण बढ़ जाता है।



सीमा है। अध्ययन में यह बात भी सामने आई है कि पूरे देश में पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषण डब्ल्यूएचओ की ओर से निर्धारित मापदंडों से दो से पांच गुना अधिक है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के वैज्ञानिक

डॉ. सागनिक डे ने बताया कि नासा के सेटेलाइट टेरा के सेंसर माइजर (मल्टी एंगल स्पेक्ट्रोरेडियोमीटर) की मदद से पिछले दस वर्षों में देशभर में प्रदूषण के आंकड़ों को एकत्र किया गया। इसका मकसद यह पता लगाना था कि भारत में

पिछले एक दशक में प्रदूषण का स्तर कितना बढ़ा या घटा है।

डॉ. डे ने बताया कि यह पहला ऐसा अध्ययन है, जिससे पूरे देश में प्रदूषण के क्षेत्रवार आंकड़े जुटाए जा सके हैं। इससे सिर्फ कुछ केंद्रों के प्रदूषण के आंकड़े दे

पा रहा है, जबकि केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड शहरी इलाके के आंकड़े दे पाने में ही सक्षम है। डॉ. डे के मुताबिक, अध्ययन में सामने आया कि सिर्फ गाड़ियां व एसी आदि ही प्रदूषण फैलाने के प्रमुख कारक नहीं होते हैं, बल्कि

किसी शहर में अन्य जगह से आने वाली हवा और अन्य भौगोलिक परिस्थितियां भी इसका कारण होती हैं। यह धारणा भी गलत है कि पूरे देश में प्रदूषण बढ़ रहा है।

● प्रदूषण का बड़ा कारण धूपान : पेज-12

Business Line ND 10/07/2012

p-17

Record girl students in IIM-Lucknow

Lucknow, July 9

The Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow has witnessed a record increase in the number of girl students in 2012-14, IIM-L said on Monday. "The key focus in admissions this year was to ensure gender diversity without compromising on merit. The institute witnessed a record increase in the number of girls — a total of 144 (35.4 per cent) female students have been inducted this year in the post-graduate programme in management and 23 (50 per cent) in agri-business management," IIM-L said in a release. — PTI

RESEARCHERS DISCUSS MOBILE PHONE RADIATION AT IIT-B WORKSHOP

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: Using a cell phone in a closed vehicle could expose you to 80% more radiation, according to readings recording by a Jalandhar-based researcher.

The findings of the researcher Amarjot Dhani, currently unpublished, were presented at a daylong workshop at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay on Monday. The event was organised to discuss the effects of radiation related to cell phones and phone towers. It featured researchers, affected citizens and telecom industry professionals.

Last week, a committee appointed by the department of science and technology (DST) to conduct a study on the effects of exposure to radiation, held its first meeting. Cell phone tower radiation limits are prescribed at 4,500 milliwatt per metre squared.

“The DST study will be the credible basis for taking this forward,” said Rajan Mathews, director general of the Cellular Operators’ Association of India, during his presentation.

While telecom professionals said there was no conclusive evidence linking radiation to cancer, citizens expressed their concerns about the proliferation of towers, especially near residential buildings.

UK unveils new visa rules to catch bogus students

London: Britain on Monday announced a targeted interview system for student visa applicants from India and other non-EU countries to prevent abuse and to ensure that they are refused visas if immigration officials have doubts about their genuineness as students.

The new measure follows a pilot scheme carried out in India, Pakistan and 11 other countries, which revealed that some applicants could not answer basic questions in English without an interpreter, but had claimed in forms that they had the ability to study at UK universities. During the pilot, over 2,300 interviews were conducted at application stage between December 2011 and February 2012.

It revealed that almost half (45%) of applicants from Myanmar would have been refused visas if they had been interviewed.

The figure for India was

A pilot analysis in India, Pakistan and 11 other countries revealed that some applicants could not answer basic questions in English but had claimed ability to study at UK universities

29%, and 38% for Bangladesh, the home office said.

“Under the current system UK Border Agency officers are unable to refuse some applications even if they have serious concerns over the credibility of the student — we are toughening up the system,” immigration minister Damian Green said. The pilot analysis mentions case studies of three Indian applicants whose responses during interviews raised doubts about their credibility and genuineness. **PTI**

Girls suffer from maths anxiety more than boys

London: Girls often fail to do just as well at math as boys because of heightened fear and apprehension over number problems, a new study has claimed. The study, published in the journal *Behavioral and Brain Functions*, found that a number of school-age children suffer from mathematics anxiety, but girls' maths performance is more likely to suffer than boys as a result.

Mathematics anxiety is a state of discomfort associated with performing mathematics tasks and is thought to affect a notable proportion of both children and adults, having a negative impact on their mathematics performance.

In the study, researchers from Cambridge University in the UK investigated 433 secondary school children whether mathematics anxiety has any effect on mathematics performance on boys and girls. The researchers controlled for test anxiety, a related construct, but which isn't typically controlled for in mathematics anxiety studies.

They found children with higher mathematics anxiety have a lower mathematics performance, and girls showed higher levels of mathematics anxiety than boys. #1

'Nasa claim of arsenic-friendly life form untrue'

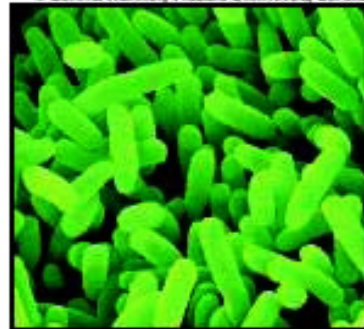
Washington: The claim by Nasa scientists that they have discovered a new form of bacteria which thrive on arsenic has been disapproved by two new studies, which say the bugs can't substitute arsenic for phosphorus to survive.

Two scientific papers, published in the journal *Science*, refuted the 2010 Nasa finding that bacterium called GFAJ-1 not only tolerates arsenic but actually incorporates the poison into its DNA, swapping out phosphorus. "Contrary to an original report, the new research clearly shows that the bacterium, GFAJ-1, cannot substitute arsenic for phosphorus to survive," the journal said.

"If true, that finding would have important implications for our understanding of life's basic requirements since all known forms of life on Earth use six elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur," it said.

If an organism on Earth were found to survive without one of these building blocks, it could mean that life on other planets (as well as

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BUGGED THEORY?

our own) is more adaptable than expected. Felisa Wolfe-Simon, who led the Nasa study, acknowledged very low levels of phosphate within their study samples; but, they concluded the contamination would've been insufficient to allow GFAJ-1 to grow.

Now, the two separate studies find that Wolfe-Simon's medium did contain enough phosphate contamination to support GFAJ-1's growth. It's just that GFAJ-1, a well-adapted extremophile living in a high-arsenic environment, is thrifty, and is likely capable of scavenging phosphate under harsh conditions, helping to explain why it can grow even when arsenic is present in its cells, the new studies claimed. ■